

HCS SS#2 SCS SB 62 -- HEALTH CARE

SPONSOR: Schaaf (Sater)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding federal reimbursement allowances and medical records fees.

FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWANCES (Sections 190.839, 198.439, 208.437, 208.480, 338.550, and 633.401, RSMo)

The substitute extends the provisions regarding the expiration date of various federal reimbursement allowances from September 30, 2011, to September 30, 2016, including:

- (1) The ground ambulance service reimbursement allowance in Sections 190.800 - 190.839;
- (2) The nursing facility reimbursement allowance in Sections 198.401 - 198.436;
- (3) The Missouri Medicaid Program's managed care organization reimbursement allowance in Sections 208.431 - 208.437;
- (4) The hospital reimbursement allowance in Sections 208.453 - 208.480;
- (5) The pharmacy tax reimbursement allowance in Sections 338.500 - 338.550; and
- (6) The assessment on intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded in Section 633.401.

MEDICAL RECORDS FEES (Section 191.227)

Currently, a health care provider can charge a fee of not more than \$17.05 for copying medical records plus 40 cents per page for supplies and labor to a patient. The substitute increases the fee to \$21.36 plus 50 cents per page for supplies and labor adjusted annually for inflation. A health care provider will also be allowed to include in the fee charged to a patient for a copy of his or her medical records a retrieval or handling fee, not to exceed \$20, charged by an outsourced records storage service with which the provider has contracted for off-site records storage and management. If a health care provider stores records in an electronic or digital format and provides the records, if requested, in an electronic or digital format, the maximum copying amount cannot exceed \$5 plus 50 cents per page or

\$25, whichever is less.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of Up to \$41,292 in FY 2012, Up to \$50,809 in FY 2013 and Up to \$52,079 in FY 2014. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow off-site storage fees to be charged. Currently, off-site storage providers send the records to the health care provider who makes the copies. The rate was determined by the Department of Social Services.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schaaf; and Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it would be good to include language requiring an affidavit so that there could be documentation.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri State Medical Association.